

Children's liturgy – Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C)

Preparation of the worship space

Colour: green

Song suggestions: If I were a butterfly (298, Celebration hymnal for everyone)

Welcome: In today's gospel we hear how the people of Jesus' own town, Nazareth, became very angry with him. Listen to find out why...

Opening prayer: Saving God, you sent your Son to show us how to live our lives. Help us to do all that we can to follow this example. Open our hearts to see that even the most ordinary-seeming person can do special things. Amen.

First reading (optional): Jeremiah 1:4-5, 17-19

Psalm: Psalm 70:1-6, 15-17 r. 15

Gospel acclamation: *everyone stands and sings the acclamation together.*

Gospel: Luke 4:21-30

[Jesus] said to them, "This passage of scripture has come true today, as you heard it being read."

They were all well impressed with him and marvelled at the eloquent words that he spoke. They said, "Isn't he the son of Joseph?"

He said to them, "I am sure that you will quote this proverb to me, 'Doctor, heal yourself.' You will also tell me to do here in my hometown the same things you heard were done in Capernaum. I tell you this," Jesus added, "prophets are never welcomed in their hometown. Listen to me: it is true that there were many widows in Israel during the time of Elijah, when there was no rain for three and a half years and a severe famine spread throughout the whole land. Yet Elijah was not sent to anyone in Israel, but only to a widow living in Zarephath in the territory of Sidon. And there were many people suffering from a dreaded skin disease who lived in Israel during the time of the prophet Elisha; yet not one of them was healed, but only Naaman the Syrian."

When the people in the synagogue heard this, they were filled with anger. They rose up, dragged Jesus out of town, and took him to the top of the hill on which their town was built. They meant to throw him over the cliff, but he walked through the middle of the crowd and went his way.

(Gospel passage taken from Good News Translation® and used with permission, see details below)*

Gospel reflection: What do you remember from the reading today?

Last week we heard how Jesus was speaking in the synagogue and how he had been sent by God to bring good news to people who are poor. The people were amazed with all that he said to them.

Today's reading follows straight on from last week's. But how do the people feel about what Jesus is saying today?

The people do not believe that Jesus is special. They become angry about what he is saying. Why do you think that is?

Jesus was preaching in his home town. This was the place where he had grown up and many of the people knew him. They knew him as an ordinary man, the son of Joseph the carpenter.

Sometimes when we know someone very well, we see their good points and their bad points. Because we know them so well we think of them as ordinary and we no longer see how special they are.

Sometimes the person themselves doesn't even realise they are doing anything special. They think they are just being quite ordinary.

But all people, no matter how ordinary they seem, are special. And they can all do special things.

Can you think of some ordinary people who have done very special or extraordinary things? Who are they and what did they do?

The children in Year 3 at St Joseph's RC primary school completed a 10km cycle ride and raised an amazing amount of money – over £2000 – while doing it.

Do you think this is extraordinary?

Mahdi and his family had to run away from their home in Syria to neighbouring country Jordan, because of the war. When Mahdi started school in Jordan, he found it hard to make friends at first. But he got some help to understand all his feelings about the war, leaving home and starting again in a new place with new people. And he has since started to make new friends.

How is Mahdi similar to you? How is Mahdi different to you? Is Mahdi extraordinary in any way? What do you think makes people extraordinary?

God's people are unique. They come from different places and have different lives. Mahdi and the children at St Joseph's are two examples of ordinary people trying to live their daily life really well.

What do you think makes someone extraordinary?

For more children's liturgy resources and illustrations see cafod.org.uk/childrensliturgy

CAFOD is the official aid agency of the Catholic Church in England and Wales and part of Caritas International. Charity no 1160384 and a company limited by guarantee no 09387398

The ordinary things that we do are special and extraordinary too. Can you think about a time when someone made you laugh? Or when someone was kind and generous to you? Or when you scored a great goal in football? Or when you did your best at something?

Did you think that was ordinary? Or did it feel special and extraordinary?

The people in the gospel reading get so angry that they do not listen to what Jesus is saying. They do not want to follow him anymore.

Let's all try follow Jesus and to listen to him in the coming week, so that we can do special things in our lives and for each other. And let's pray for all children throughout the world, who are all special in their own ways.

Intercessions *You may want to ask the children to offer their own prayers or you can use the suggestions below.*

God is always with us, giving us strength and courage to take action and make a difference and so we pray together:

We pray for world leaders: that they may listen to their own people when they speak the truth and take action to make people's lives better. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for all people around the world who face injustice: that they may have the strength and courage to stand up for what they believe in and make a change. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for our parish, families and friends: that we may serve God and do extraordinary things, each in our own way. Lord, in your mercy...

Closing prayer: God of truth, open our eyes to see that all people are special. Strengthen our faith so that we may serve you better, follow Jesus, and make a difference to the lives of others throughout the world. Amen.

Activity suggestions

Invite the children to colour in the accompanying illustration and on the back to write or draw the story of one of the ordinary people, who have done extraordinary things that they have heard today.

Give the children a star, cut out of paper or card. Encourage them to write or draw on it something extraordinary that they or another person has done. Or to write the qualities that they think make people special such as kindness, generosity, courage or faith.

Encourage the children to share all that they have heard and thought about today with the people at home. Remind them to try to listen to Jesus in the coming week and to find out about one more extraordinary person past or present.

For more children's liturgy resources and illustrations see cafod.org.uk/childrensliturgy

CAFOD is the official aid agency of the Catholic Church in England and Wales and part of Caritas International. Charity no 1160384 and a company limited by guarantee no 09387398

*Gospel passage taken from:

Good News Translation® (Today's English Version, Second Edition)
© 1992 American Bible Society. All rights reserved.

Anglicisation © The British and Foreign Bible Society 1976, 1994, 2004. The copyright for the derivative work of Anglicisation pertains only to the text within the Good News Translation (GNT) that British and Foreign Bible Society adapted for British literary usage, consistent with Section 103(b) of the United States Copyright Act, 17 U.S.C. § 103(b).

Bible text from the Good News Translation (GNT) is not to be reproduced in copies or otherwise by any means except as permitted in writing by American Bible Society, 101 North Independence Mall East, FL 8, Philadelphia, PA 19106 (www.americanbible.org).



For more children's liturgy resources and illustrations see cafod.org.uk/childrensliturgy

CAFOD is the official aid agency of the Catholic Church in England and Wales and part of Caritas International. Charity no 1160384 and a company limited by guarantee no 09387398